

cocoa-nut leaf, which supports them on a worked band of sinnet ; upon this, under the row of seventeen shells, small oval pieces of the same pearly shell were placed, to add to the ornamental effect. The length of the band was 12 inches (not including the tying strings) and the depth 3 inches.

7. DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF SALAMANDERS FROM CHINA AND SIAM. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC.

(Reptilia, Pl. XIX.)

Mr. Fortune, on his late return from China, brought with him for the British Museum a bottle containing a Salamander, some Fishes, and a Leech, collected from a river on the north-east coast of China, inland from Ningpo.

The Fishes are two varieties, olive and golden, of a very peculiar monstrosity of the common gold fish of China, *Cyprinus auratus*, which has long been known, and is figured in several of the Chinese works.

It is peculiar for having a very short and thick body, entirely destitute of any dorsal fin, with a regularly trifold or three-finned tail, and more especially for having very large and swollen eyes, which give a distorted appearance to the animal ; the pupil of the eyes being on the upper part of the swollen orbs, and on a level with the upper surface of the back.

The Salamander or Newt was obtained from the same stream. It is curious as being the first example of the family which has been found in Continental Asia, though there are several species common in Japan.

It is nearly allied and appears to belong to the same genus as one of the Japanese specimens ; but at the same time it is quite distinct, as a species, from any yet received from that country.

It may be indicated as—

*CYNOPS CHINENSIS.* (Pl. XIX., fig. 1.)

Above uniform dark olive (in spirits) ; beneath bluish-black, with small, unequal, irregular, yellow spots on the chin, neck, belly, and underside of the legs ; the spots on the belly are the largest ; the under edge of the tail reddish-yellow ; skin acutely granular.

Var. 1. Tail pale grey, brown on each side, with a blackish marginal band above and below, and with a yellow inferior edge.

*Hab.* River N.E. Coast of China, inland from Ningpo.

This species resembles in the form of the head, the parotoid glands, and in the granular state of the skin, *Cynops pyrogaster* of Japan ; but it differs from it in its much larger size and in the style of its colouring, especially on its under side. *C. pyrogaster* is dark red, with large black blotches or spots ; while this is dark lead-coloured, with small yellow spots.

The Leech is one of the Land Leeches, with a lunate head, similar to those received from Ceylon.

The British Museum has also received in a collection of reptiles and fishes, obtained in Siam by Mr. Mouhot, two specimens of a species of Newt, which is so exceedingly like the *Plethodon glutinosum* of North America in external appearance, that is to say in form, size, and colour, and also in the distribution of the palatine teeth, that I was at first inclined to regard them as specimens of the American animal which had been sent to Siam. But I cannot believe this to be the case, as they were inclosed in a bottle containing several kinds of reptiles, which are evidently all natives of Siam. I may observe that this is the first time that any species of Newt has been received from Continental India.

I propose to designate the Siamese species

*PLETHODON PERSIMILIS.* (Pl. XIX., fig. 2.)

Black, white-speckled, the specks closer and more abundant on the sides; the hind toes elongate, unequal. Tail compressed.

*Hab.* Siam.

The only character that I can find between the two specimens received from Siam, and some twenty or more of *P. glutinosum* from different parts of the United States in the Museum collection, is that the toes of the hind feet appeared rather longer, more slender, and unequal in length, and the tail much more compressed.

#### 8. DESCRIPTION OF SCAPHA MARIA-EMMA, A NEW SPECIES OF VOLUTE. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

(Mollusca, Pl. XLVIII.)

Mr. Cuming kindly sent to me a specimen of *Volute*, which had been sent to him by Mr. Jamrach, who received it from Singapore. It is most probably from some of the Malayan Islands, Singapore being merely the entrepôt. The specimen is unfortunately not in a very good condition, being rather sponge-eaten on the hinder part of the body whorl, and having a small hole on the spire; but it is otherwise in a perfect state, with its proper outer lip, so as to be in a good state for description.

It combines the characters of several species. It has the large, regular, smooth-whorled, spired nucleus, of *Scapha aulica*, *S. deshayesii*, *S. luteostoma*, &c., the fusiform shape of *Scapha rutila*, and especially of the smooth variety of *S. aulica*; but it is entirely differently coloured from both of them and all the other large species of the genus, the colouring resembling that of *Amoria undulata*. Indeed some conchologists, to whom I have shown the specimen, have regarded it as a very large specimen of the latter species, which has lost its external polished coat, and with a larger nucleus than usual.

A careful examination of the shell at once shows the fallacy of such